

# General Race News

## BRAITHWAITE SPEAKS AT 20TH CENTURY CLUB

Colored Critic of American Poetry Addresses Boston's Great Literary Society. Praises Whittier. Expects Greatest American Poets Soon.

W. S. Braithwaite spoke at the Twentieth Century Club Saturday afternoon on "New Tendencies in Poetry."

"Fifty years ago," he said, "we had a group of poets, but only one who had in him the makings of a great poet, and that was Whittier, because he had in his nature an intense and fiery composition. The only American poets who have influenced European thought and culture are Whitman and Poe, and I might add Emerson.

"The transitional period of our poetry in 1900 and its renaissance commenced to show itself about 1905, Imagism in poetry is not a new thing, but the fight is over now. The imagists will more and more conform to conventional patterns, and the conventionalists will more and more take whatever of strength, force and virility the imagists have brought to their attention. So there is being born an infant at which in my opinion in the next five or ten years is going to produce the best poetry that has been written in the century.

"The other group of poets is the social democratic group, composed of two or three writers, most of them sentimentalists, who have the power to be splendid poets, but who have permitted their propagandist interests to spoil their poetic virtues."

Mr. Braithwaite summed up his review by saying that poetry belonged to the people, that it had passed from the people to a class and was now again returning from that class to its original possessors, the people.

Original poems were read by R. S. Hillyer, vice-president of the Harvard Poetry Society; W. A. Bradley and Vachel Lindsay, and S. S. Curry, president of the School of Expression, led a brief discussion.

The club voted to send greetings to William Dean Howells on the occasion of his 80th birthday.—Boston Guardian, March 10th.

## RAPID ENLISTMENT OF NEGROES FOR EUROPE

Dublin, Ga.—That Negroes are being enlisted rapidly in the army of England, in Canada, was the statement of Congressman-elect W. W. Larson, who returned recently from a business trip to Canada.

"At Windsor," said Judge Larson, "I was surprised to see a large sprinkling of Negro soldiers among the recruits who were being prepared for service in Europe. I mentioned it to the man with whom I was transacting business and he told me that several hundred Colored troops from the Southland had been enlisted recently at Windsor and would be sent to Europe with the other troops. He told me they were all from my section of the country.

"To my surprise, also, I found them scattered among the white men promiscuously, and not in separate companies. Both whites and blacks seemed to be on good terms with each other and as chummy as soldiers generally get."

## COLORED DEPUTY A HERO.

On December 11 Pierre Brizon, Socialist leader of the peace party in the French Chamber of Deputies, started a riot by throwing a glass of water at a deputy named Bouge, who insulted him on the floor. The New York Sun has printed, for the first time, Brizon's own account of the affair, and in it a high tribute is paid to the Colored Deputy, M. Diagne, who is representing Senegal:

"At once a human grape bunch is on me! Fifty noble barons of the Right are upon me! Fifty against one, noble knights, descendants of the Crusaders! They rushed the tribune; one-half strangled me and tore my hair; another held me round the waist; a third twisted my leg through the bars of the little staircase up to the tribune. They almost got me down, but I clung on.

"Happily assistance arrived. The attendants were joined by some courageous colleagues, among them a Colored Deputy, M. Diagne, representative of Senegal, whom I here salute. I tore myself from reactionary and savage hands. I escaped from real 'barbarians' and was saved! But—I cut the story short—I was censured, excluded from the Chamber for thirty sittings, and my indemnity was suppressed for a month." (In other words, he was fined \$250.)

## FUNSTON PUTS ONE OVER TEXANS

Among many reminiscences of the late General Funston written by a staff correspondent of The New York Times, the following story is told:

"An instance of the General's diplomacy and shrewdness in arguing against compliance with the wishes of Texans by seeming to comply is told in all the border towns. A little village more than forty miles from the border, and that not a dangerous part of the border, sent delegation after delegation to the Departmental Headquarters, pleading for 'protection' and telling the most horrifying tales of raids to come. 'Yes, yes, a regiment would be adequate protection, entirely adequate!'

"Funston learned that the town, unlike most border villages, was inhabited by Southerners, and promised that it should have a regiment to 'protect' it—'immediately!' A few days later a Negro regiment detrained at the village and struck its camp on the outskirts. And a few days after that the same delegation, larger this time, was back in General Funston's office arguing that all danger of raids was past, and that the village no longer needed protection."

## MEXICO PROMULGATES NEW CONSTITUTION

Mexico has promulgated her new constitution, and it is one of the most interesting documents ever proposed for adoption by any nation. It makes education free and compulsory, forbids all sectarian education, limits number of clericals in all cities and counties, places strong restrictions upon all foreigners, grants universal suffrage and is filled with all manner of provisions which make it a very idealistic venture in constitutional law. The people will soon be called to vote upon it very soon and, if ratified, it will become the permanent constitution of the Mexican republic.

## TRUE STORY OF CARRIZAL FIGHT

In an answer to a criticism of Captain Boyd by President Lowell of Harvard, Major Tompkins points out the injustice of the schoolmaster, and therein gives the first authentic report of the Carrizal massacre. The New York Sun goes on to say:

"Then the true story of the affair at Carrizal is told. Captain Boyd, riding with his troops through a country garrisoned by Carranza troops and supposed to be friendly, had orders not to fire in case of a difficulty with them until fired upon. 'His tactical formations previous to the Mexican attack were correct,' says Major Tompkins. When the machine gun opened upon his command, Captain Boyd charged 'the machine gun unit in spite of its galling fire, and captured it.' The Mexicans were driven

back, some of them in headlong rout. Major Tompkins goes on to say:

"The tide of battle was about to swing in favor of this handful of Tenth Cavalry soldiers when, unfortunately, Captain Boyd and Lieutenant Adair were killed (by rifle fire). This left the Negro troopers without a leader, and in spite of the efforts of the few gallant non-commissioned officers present the cavalrymen lost cohesion, the team work disappeared. This was immediately felt, recognized and taken advantage of by the Mexicans, who returned to the attack and captured those who had not already escaped or were killed."

"Few of the American soldiers were killed. Eighteen or twenty fell into the hands of the Mexicans, and the other Americans made good their escape. Captain Boyd, his brother officer declares, did not blunder and was not the kind of officer to blunder.

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